

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Original) A brushless wire rope cleaner, comprising:
 - a base plate;
 - two side members arranged on the base plate at a distance from one another;
 - a cover extending from one side member to the other side member so that the base plate, the side members and the cover form a channel;
 - a cleaning element slideably arranged in the channel; and
 - a tensioning mechanism operatively arranged to slide the cleaning element through the channel.
2. (Original) The brushless cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning element is a block of extruded polystyrene.
3. (Original) The brushless cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the base plate has an upwardly facing surface area of a different size than a downwardly facing surface area of the cover.
4. (Original) The brushless cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the base plate has an upwardly facing surface area substantially equal to a downwardly facing surface area of the cover.
5. (Original) The brushless cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the tensioning mechanism includes an elastic band extending across an inlet of the channel so that the band engages the distal end of the cleaning element and thereby advances the cleaning element through the channel.

6. (Original) The brushless cleaner according to claim 1, wherein the tensioning mechanism includes a spring arrangement located behind the distal end of the cleaning element so as to apply a force on the cleaning element to slide it through the channel.

7. (Original) The brushless cleaner according to claim 5, wherein each end of the elastic band is respectively attached to one of the side members.

8. (Original) The brushless cleaner according to claim 7, wherein a respective mounting peg is attached to each side member, the ends of the elastic band being attached to the mounting pegs.

9. (Original) The brushless cleaner according to claim 5, wherein a respective mounting peg is attached to the base plate adjacent each of the side members, the ends of the elastic band being attached to the mounting pegs.

10. (Original) The brushless cleaner according to claim 5, wherein the side members each have a slot that extends from the distal end of the side member so that the elastic band can pass through a portion of the side members to push the distal end of the cleaning element past the distal end of the side members.

11. (Original) The brushless cleaner according to claim 10, wherein the slots have a bottom which forms a stop for the elastic band beyond which the cleaning element is not pushed.

12. (Original) The brushless cleaner according to claim 1, and further comprising vibration damping members mounted on inner surfaces of the channel.

13. (Original) The brushless cleaner according to claim 12, wherein the damping members are felt strips.

14. (Original) The brushless cleaner according to claim 1, and further comprising a frame on which the base plate is mounted.

15. (Original) The brushless cleaner according to claim 14, wherein the frame includes a platform to which the base plate is mounted and leg members arranged at opposite ends of the platform.

16. (Original) The brushless cleaner according to claim 15, wherein the base plate is bolted to the platform.